

2.14 **PARAMETER FILE REGISTER**

Introduction

The Parameter File Register contains identifying information about survey-specific parameter files that are created outside of StEPS. When a parameter file is created within StEPS, the StEPS program sets the appropriate pointers to retrieve needed information. However, some surveys need data that is not maintained by StEPS. These “other” parameter files contain variables that are not on the item or control files but must be included in the fat record when certain processes are run (e.g., edit, imputation, derived items). For example, the M3 survey uses historic data to calculate ratios between the current and prior period for certain items. These ratios are then used as part of the edit condition to determine if a particular item value is acceptable. StEPS cannot read these ratios from the item file, but must find them in an “outside” file and add them to the fat record before they can be referenced in the edit condition. The procedure for adding “other” data to the fat record is this:

- The person(s) designated by the survey manager compiles the needed data and works with the survey programmer to create a parameter file in StEPS format and place the file in the parameter file library.
- The survey manager or designated person(s) are given a parameter privilege of PARMPRIV = “P” to allow them to update records in the StEPS Parameter File Register.
- When StEPS begins to run a process for a survey, it checks the Parameter File Register to determine if any “outside data” is to be included in the fat record for that survey, for the base stat period, and for the process being run. If the Register contains a record that says, for example, a parameter file named “Historic Ratios” should be run as part of EDIT processing for survey period 2003A1, StEPS uses the information in the Parameter File Register to access the parameter file named “Historic Ratios.” StEPS then adds the data in the “Historic Ratios” file to the fat record for the EDIT processing for the stat period 2003A1.

The parameter file contains the survey-specific data. The Parameter File Register contains:

- Name of the file in which these data are stored
- Specific stat periods for which these data are to be used
- Names of StEPS processes that will use these data.

When a production programmer or a survey manager creates a survey-specific parameter file, the file is stored in one of the following libraries:

- PARM00 Files containing data to be used for the current stat period.
- PARMLIB Files containing data that is not stat period related.

After an “outside” data file is created, a user must create a record in the StEPS Parameter File Register to enable StEPS to access the survey-specific “other” data.

NOTE: Any user may view the list of parameter files specified for a given survey, module, and stat period. Only users with PARMPRIV = ‘P’ may add, edit, or delete a record in the Parameter File Register.

Accessing the Screen

- Click on the SURVEY SPECIFICATIONS button from the StEPS Main Menu.
- Click on the OTHER SPECIFICATIONS button from the Survey Specifications Menu.
- Select “Parameter File Register” to display the Parameter File Register Main Menu, shown in Figure 2.14a.

SAS: EPBU10 - V3.0 - rober031 - PARAMETER REGISTER FILE LIST

Edit Utilities Help Exit

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Parameter File Register

Survey: MTEST

File name: Library name: Module:

File Name	Status	Library	Prefix	Order	Module	Begin Statp	End Statp	Edit	Description
CP200202_SAVE	A	PARM00	ADV	0.1	ESTIMATE	200202		Y	TEST FILE
DEBBIE TEST 2	P	PARM00	TS2	.	SIMP			N	TEST 2 DESCRIPTION
DEBBIE _TEST	P	PARMLIB	TST	.	IMPUTE			N	SCREEN TEST
EDIT_SAVE	A	PARMLIB	ADV	0.1	EDIT			N	TEST FILE
TEST CASE	P	PARMLIB	ORD	0.1	ESTIMATE			Y	

Total Parameter Files: Total parmlib files: Total stat period files: Last updated:

Figure 2.14a Parameter File Register Main Menu

This screen has 4 sections:

1. The top displays the current date and the name of the survey.
2. The second section is used to create or update a record in the Parameter File Register. Each record is denoted by a unique combination of filename, library name and module.
3. The third section lists all of the survey's "outside" files that have been recorded in the Parameter File Register. Its columns are:

FILE NAME	Name of the parameter file to include in creation of the fat record. (Filenames can be used more than once in the same library as long as the module name is different.)	
STATUS	Status of file A - Active - used when running specified module I - Inactive - NOT used when running specified module P - Pending - NOT used when running specified module Blank - Assumes a value of "A"	
LIBRARY	PARM00	Library containing files with survey-specific data for the current stat period.
	PARMLIB	Library containing files with survey-specific data that is not stat period related
PREFIX	Prefix used in the fat record variable name to identify the parameter file from which the variable came; consists of 3 characters designated by the user during file creation.	
ORDER	Order in which the parameter file will be called if more than one parameter file is specified for a given module. (Needed if a variable on one parameter file is used as the match key for linking to another parameter file.)	
MODULE	Name of the module that will use the parameter file (e.g., Edit, Impute, Simp, Estimate, Derived, Deradj, Adjust).	
BSTATP	Beginning stat period - the first stat period in which this parameter file was (or will be) used.	
ESTATP	Ending stat period - the last stat period in which this parameter file was (or will be) used.	
EDIT	Indicates whether the specified parameter file can be edited	

interactively (the data element ALLOWEDT is set to “Y”).

DESCRIPTION	Description of the file (e.g., “current-to-prior ratios”).
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4. The bottom of the screen displays:

TOTAL PARAMETER FILES	The number of parameter files specified for this survey
TOTAL PARMLIB FILES	Number of parameter files that are not linked to a specific stat period
TOTAL STAT PERIOD FILES	Number of parameter files to be used only for a specific stat period
LAST UPDATED	Date Parameter File Register was last updated

Adding/Updating a Record in the Parameter File Register

Adding a Record:

Before variables can be accessed by StEPS and added to the fat record to be used by a particular StEPS process (e.g., edit, imputation, derived):

1. A file containing the variables must be added to the PARMLIB.PARMREG library by a programmer
2. A record pointing to that file must be added to the Parameter File Register by a programmer, the survey manager, or a user with PARMPRIV = “P”.

To add a record, click on the EDIT function on the p-menu for the Parameter File Register Main Menu, then select “Add parameter register record.” (You do not need to enter a file name on the menu screen.) The screen shown as Figure 2.14b will display. (Note: If you do not have PARMPRIV = ‘P’, you will see a warning message and the screen will not display.)

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Edit Help Utilities Exit

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Survey: MTEST Stat Period: 200202

File Name: TEST CASE File Description:

Libname: PARMLIB

Module: ADJUST

Order Number:

Prefix:

Category:

Match Variables:

Match 1:

Match 2:

Match 3:

Match 4:

Match 5:

File Status:

Active

Inactive

Pending

Set Valid Stat Period:

Beginning:

Ending:

Edit Allowed:

Allow Edit

No Edit

Update (F2)

Clear

Exit (F3)

Last Update: 26NOV03:15:06:27 By: ROBER031

Figure2.14b Add/Update Parameter Record screen

When the Add/Update Parameter Record screen displays, create a record by entering the name of the “outside” file in the File Name box and filling in the following required information:

	Field Name	Description	Possible Entries	Format
1	SURVEY	Survey identifier	If survey displayed is incorrect, cannot change from this screen. Exit (F3) this module, change the survey from the User Setup screen, then return to this screen via SURVEY SPECIFICATIONS/ OTHER SPECIFICATIONS	6 alphanumeric characters

	Field Name	Description	Possible Entries	Format
2	FILE NAME (entered at start of record creation)	Name of the parameter file to include in creation of the fat record (filenames can be used more than once in the same library as long as the module name is different)	historic_ratio ratio_average	20 alphanumeric characters
3	FILE DESCRIPTION	Description of the parameter file	Current-to-prior ratios	30 alphanumeric characters
4	LIBRARY NAME	Name of the library in which the parameter file is located; program will add a '00' suffix to the variable name for those variables coming from PARM00. Click on arrow (➤) for valid entries.	PARMLIB - Not stat period related PARM00 - Used only for current stat period (If stat period displayed at top of screen is not correct, change from User Setup module)	8 alphanumeric characters
5	MODULE	Name of the module in which the parameter file will be used. Click on arrow (➤) for valid entries.	EDIT IMPUTE SIMP DERIVED DERADJ ADJUST ESTIMATE	8 alphanumeric characters
6	ORDER NUMBER	Order in which the parameter file will be called, if more than one parameter file is specified for a given module. (needed if a variable on one parameter file is used as the match key for linking to another parameter file)	<BLANK> indicates that order is not relevant 1 1.5 2 3	numeric
7	PREFIX	Prefix used in fat record variable name to identify the parameter file from which the variable came; can be any 3 characters designated by the user	ABC XYZ EDT IMP	3 alphanumeric characters

	Field Name	Description	Possible Entries	Format
8	CATEGORY	Additional category or breakout for data in the parameter file; identifies an additional column in the file CATEGORY may or may not be a variable from the item or control files. A value in this field affects the way the variable will be named in the fat record (See "How StEPS creates the Fat Record" - described below.)	ITEM SALES EXPENSES NAICS	8 alphanumeric characters
9	MATCH1	Variable from the specified parameter file that is used to merge a parameter fat file record with a record from the standard fat file; must be in fat record terminology	ID00 SIC00 NAICS00	8 alphanumeric characters
10	MATCH2 (optional)	Variable from the specified parameter file that is used to merge a parameter fat file record with a record from the standard fat file; must be in fat record terminology	ID00 SIC00 NAICS00	8 alphanumeric characters
11	MATCH3 (optional)	Variable from the specified parameter file that is used to merge a parameter fat file record with a record from the standard fat file; must be in fat record terminology	ID00 SIC00 NAICS00	8 alphanumeric characters
12	MATCH4 (optional)	Variable from the specified parameter file that is used to merge a parameter fat file record with a record from the standard fat file; must be in fat record terminology	ID00 SIC00 NAICS00	8 alphanumeric characters
13	MATCH5 (optional)	Variable from the specified parameter file that is used to merge a parameter fat file record with a record from the standard fat file; must be in fat record terminology	ID00 SIC00 NAICS00	8 alphanumeric characters

	Field Name	Description	Possible Entries	Format
14	FILE STATUS	Click to highlight status of specified parameter file. (If file not yet stored in library, P assigned automatically.)	A Active I Inactive P Pending <blank> assumes value of 'A'	1 alphanumeric character
15	BEGIN- NING STAT PERIOD	First stat period in which this parameter file was (or will be) used. Click on arrow (➤) for valid entries.	<blank> 2002A1 1999A1 200201 200202	6 alphanumeric characters
16	ENDING STAT PERIOD	The last stat period in which this parameter file was (or will be) used. Click on arrow (➤) for valid entries.	<blank> 2002A1 1999A1 200301 200302	6 alphanumeric characters
17	EDIT ALLOWED	Indicates if the specified parameter file can be edited interactively. If this is not selected, users cannot change any data in the record. (see Viewing and Editing the Parameter File Data, below)	Y Yes, file can be edited interactively <blank> No, file cannot be edited interactively (Default setting)	1 alphanumeric characters

- To save the information and add the record to the Parameter File Register (PARMLIB.PARMREG), click the UPDATE button at the bottom of the screen,
 - or press F2
 - or select the EDIT option on the p-menu and then select “Update.”
- To clear your entry, click the CLEAR button at the bottom of the screen or select the EDIT option on the p-menu and then select “Cancel.”
- To exit this screen, click the EXIT button at the bottom of the screen
 - or press F3
 - or use the EXIT option on the p-menu.

If you have unsaved data on the screen, a message will appear asking you if you want to save your work. Select “yes” or “no.”

The bottom of the screen displays the date of the last update and the user ID of the person who last updated the record.

Note: If you cannot complete all the required data for a record, or if the programmer has not yet added the file to the proper parameter library, you can still create a record with a FILE

STATUS of “P” for “Pending.” When the file is added to the library or the remaining information becomes available, use the “Update Parameter Record” option from the EDIT function of the p-menu to complete the record and change the FILE STATUS to “A” for “Active.”

Note: A file name may be used more than once for a survey as long as each use of the file is linked to a different module or is stored in a different library. For example “historic_ratios” can be used twice if one instance is linked to EDIT and the second instance is linked to ADJUST.

The variable prefix must be unique for parameter files that are stored in the same library and have the same MODULE name. For example, if two sets of historic ratios will be used in the EDIT module for all statistical periods (which means they will both be stored in the same library – PARMLIB), they can be assigned the prefixes HR1 and HR2. StEPS would read these files as HR1_historic_ratios and HR2_historic_ratios, seeing them as two distinct files, and run them in the EDIT module. The unique prefixes also allow you to specify different characteristics for each file. However, using the same file name within the same module can cause confusion and should be done only if there is an overriding reason for not creating unique file names.

Updating a Record:

Select a record to update in one of two ways:

- Click on the name of the file in the listing displayed on the Parameter File Register Menu. The Add/Update Parameter Register Record screen will appear.
- Use the arrow (➤) by the File Name box to display a list of files that have Parameter File Register records. Select a file to update. Then select “Update parameter register record” from the Edit option on the p-menu to display the Add/Update Parameter Register Record screen.

If you have PARMPRIV = P for this survey, you will be able to update the information on the Add/Update screen. Click UPDATE or F2 to save the changes. If you do not have parameter update privileges for this survey, you will see the message shown in Figure 2.14c. When you click “OK,” the Add/Update screen will display the file data in read-only mode. You will be able to print the parameter information (go to the UTILITIES menu and select “Print”) but you cannot change any data. Use EXIT or F3 when you finish.

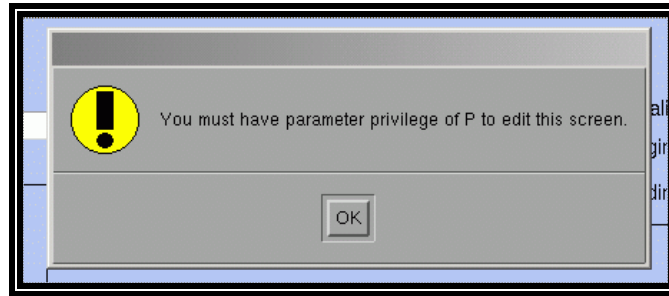


Figure 2.14c Update not allowed warning

Deleting a Record:

From the Parameter File Register Main Menu:

- Use the arrow (➤) by the File name box to display a list of files that have Parameter File Register records to select the file to delete.
- Either select “Delete Parameter Register record” from the EDIT option on the p-menu or click F6.

You will be asked to confirm that you want to delete this record.

Viewing and Editing the Parameter File Data:

The fourth option available from the EDIT p-menu – “View/Update Parameter File” – allows you examine the data in the parameter file itself. Users with proper permissions can view the data and if the EDIT ALLOWED data element in the Parameter File Record is set to “Y” for “yes,” users can edit the parameter file interactively without removing it from the parameter library. This allows survey managers and designated users to make corrections to data values quickly.

To use this option, from the Parameter File Register Main Menu:

- Use the arrow (➤) by the File name box to display a list of files that have Parameter File Register records, then select a file to view or edit.
- Select the “View/Update Parameter File” from the EDIT option on the p-menu. The screen shown as 2.14d will be displayed.

SAS: EPBU10 - V3.0 - rober031 - MODIFY PARAMETER REGISTER FILE

Help Exit

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Date: 29DEC03:15:14:09

Modify Parameter File

View/Modify Mode:

☒ Edit
☐ Browse

	SURVEY	STATP	PHSCDE	PHSSTP	ID	WGT	ALPHA	SOURCE	COVCD	STATUS	EFDTE	EFSTAT	ACTION	FORM
1	MTEST	200202	1ST	200202	0010248761	1.0000		9		A			A	M3(SD)7
2	MTEST	200202	2ND	200202	0010248761	1.0000		9		A			A	M3(SD)7
3	MTEST	200202	4TH	200202	0010248761	1.0000		9		A			A	M3(SD)7
4	MTEST	200202	ADV	200202	0010248761	1.0000		9		A			A	M3(SD)7
5	MTEST	200202	PRL	200202	0010248761	1.0000		9		A			A	M3(SD)7
6	MTEST	200202	PUB	200202	0010248761	1.0000		9		A			A	M3(SD)7
7	MTEST	200202	1ST	200202	0010402976	1.0000	001051	9		A			A	M3(SD)7
8	MTEST	200202	2ND	200202	0010402976	1.0000		9		A			A	M3(SD)7
9	MTEST	200202	4TH	200202	0010402976	1.0000		9		A			A	M3(SD)7
10	MTEST	200202	ADV	200202	0010402976	1.0000		9		A			A	M3(SD)7
11	MTEST	200202	PRL	200202	0010402976	1.0000		9		A			A	M3(SD)7
12	MTEST	200202	PUB	200202	0010402976	1.0000		9		A			A	M3(SD)7
13	MTEST	200202	1ST	200202	0010511438	1.0000	001051	9		A			A	M3(SD)7
14	MTEST	200202	2ND	200202	0010511438	1.0000	001051	9		A			A	M3(SD)7
15	MTEST	200202	4TH	200202	0010511438	1.0000	001051	9		A			A	M3(SD)7
16	MTEST	200202	ADV	200202	0010511438	1.0000	001051	9		A			A	M3(SD)7
17	MTEST	200202	PRL	200202	0010511438	1.0000	001051	9		A			A	M3(SD)7
18	MTEST	200202	PUB	200202	0010511438	1.0000	001051	9		A			A	M3(SD)7
19	MTEST	200202	1ST	200202	0020231580	1.0000		9		A			A	M3(SD)7
20	MTEST	200202	2ND	200202	0020231580	1.0000		9		A			A	M3(SD)7
21	MTEST	200202	4TH	200202	0020231580	1.0000		9		A			A	M3(SD)7
22	MTEST	200202	ADV	200202	0020231580	1.0000		9		A			A	M3(SD)7
23	MTEST	200202	PRL	200202	0020231580	1.0000		9		A			A	M3(SD)7
24	MTEST	200202	PUB	200202	0020231580	1.0000		9		A			A	M3(SD)7

File Name: PARM00.CP200202_SAVE Variable Prefix: ADV Number of Observations: 25566

Figure 2.14d View/Modify Parameter File screen

The button in the upper left corner allows you to view the screen in “Edit” mode, which allows changes, or “Browse” mode which is read-only. The column headings will depend on the data in the parameter file. Standard data for all files are:

SURVEY	Name of survey using the data
STATP	Statistical period using the data
PHSCODE	Flag noting data saved for this phase
PHSSTP	Stat period for which phase data is saved
USRNAME	Name of user that last updated file
PGNAME	Name of program that last updated file (or interactive update note)
PRGDTM	Date/time of last update
PHSUSR	StEPS processing phase that last used program
PHSDTM	Date/time file last used for processing.

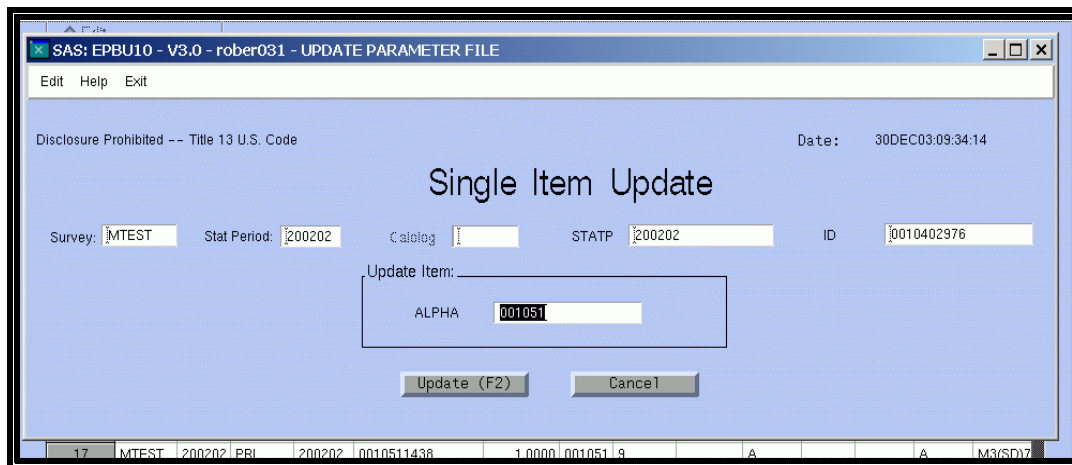


Figure 2.14e Data Item Update Screen

Note: Because the screen must be scrolled to view all columns, some of these data elements are not visible in the illustration.

To update file data, place the cursor over the display cell for the updating and click. The screen shown

The name of the column selected appears by an update box. Type in the new value and press F2 or click the UPDATE button. The new value will appear in the cell and the USRNM and PRGDTM fields will be updated.

Printing Record Information:

To print the list of parameter file records that have been created for a survey, go to the Parameter File Register Main Menu, click UTILITIES on the p-menu, then select "Print."

To print detail information for a specific file, click on the filename to display the Add/Update Parameter Register record screen. Click on UTILITIES on the p-menu for this screen, then select "Print." The data for the individual record will be sent to your printer.

How StEPS Uses Parameter Information to Create a Fat Record

Shown below is a sample of what a survey-specific parameter file might look like. The name of the file is NAICS_FACTOR. It will be used for a survey called NSURV, and will not be linked to any specific stat period. It is specified to run during the EDIT module. The file name will be stored on the Parameter File Register. The NAICS_FACTOR file itself will be stored in PARMLIB. Assume the user assigned the variable prefix "NSU."

SURVEY	NAICS00	FACTOR
NSURV	512000	.123
NSURV	524000	.456
NSURV	546000	.287
NSURV	548000	.135
NSURV	591200	.465

When the EDIT program is run, the convert program (CNVT) will initially look at 4 fields on the Parameter File Register record for NAICS_FACTOR: MODULE, STATUS, BSTATP (beginning stat period), and ESTATP (ending stat period). If MODULE = "EDIT," STATUS = "A" or blank, and the current stat period falls within the range specified by BSTATP and ESTATP, the convert program will select NAICS_FACTOR for processing. The program will then add the variables in this file to the fat record, as follows:

1. Create a SAS data set in fat format using the following naming convention:

variable prefix (from Parameter File Register) + variable name (from survey-specific parameter file)

Example: NSU + FACTOR = NSU_FACTOR

2. Merge this fat file with the EDIT program's fat file using the MATCH variables specified in the Parameter File Register. If, for example, the MATCH1 match variable is specified as NAICS00, the match will be done using the NAICS00 column in NAICS_FACTOR.

(If more than one file listed on the Parameter File Register meets the selection criteria, the program will select all specified files and will sort the filenames by the value in ORDER. The program will process each parameter file meeting the criteria separately.)

The edit condition to reference the variable in NAICS_FACTOR might look like this:

If vs00 not (.05 <nsu_factor<1.00)

The CATEGORY specification on the Parameter File Register can be used to write edit conditions for category-specific tests. A category-specific variable name is:

variable prefix+category+variable name

Using the NAICS_FACTORS example, the name for a variable with a category of "SALES" would be:

NSU_SALES_FACTOR

An edit statement might be:

Ifsales00 * nsu_sales_factor > etotal00

The expanded fat records that the convert program creates from the survey-specific parameter files are stored and managed using the same procedures StEPS uses to store and manage fat records that do not have survey-specific variables.

P-Menus

P-menu for create/Edit Parameter File Register screen:

P-Menu	Options	Function
EDIT	Add parameter register record Delete parameter register record (F6) Update parameter register record (F2) View/Update Parameter File	Displays Add Parameter Register screen Deletes parameter register record Displays Add Parameter Register screen Displays Add Parameter Register screen
UTILITIES	Next page (PgDwn) Previous Page (PgUp) Top Bottom Print	Goes to next page of file listing Goes to previous page of file listing Goes to first line in file listing Goes to last line in file listing Sends file listing to printer
HELP	Survey Specifications Help (F1) WhoamI (F7)	Display HELP information on using the Parameter Specification File Display user default and systems information.
EXIT	StEPS Main Menu (Home) Exit (F3)	Return to StEPS Main Menu. Exit to previous screen.

P-menu for Add Parameter Register Record Screen:

P-Menu	Options	Function
EDIT	Update (F2) Cancel	Save record to Parameter File Register Cancel data entry
HELP	Parameter File Register Help (F1) WhoamI (F7)	Display HELP information on using the Parameter File Register Display user default and systems information.
UTILITIES	Print	Sends record listing to printer
EXIT	StEPS Main Menu (Home) Exit (F3)	Return to StEPS Main Menu. Exit to previous screen.